

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RO, XIN XJ
SUBJECT VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU FEB 22-23, 1977

1. ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU MADE 24 HOUR STATE VISIT TO MAURITANIA FEBRUARY 22-23. MAURITANIANS ROLLED OUT RED CARPET AND GAVE CEAUSESCU USUAL VIP TREATMENT FIRST IN NOUADHIBOU WHERE THEY WERE MET BY PRESIDENT AND MME. OULD DADDAH AND THEN IN NOUAKCHOT NOUAKCHOTT WHEN THEY ARRIVED ON BOARD MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S CARAVELLE: 21 GUN SALUTE AND MILITARY HONORS AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY, PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE INTO TOWN PAST SEVERAL HUNDRED MOUNTED CAMELS AND CROWDS OF CHEERING PEOPLE, STATE DINNER (MISHWI UNDER PRESIDENTIAL TENT) COMPLETE WITH EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL TOASTS, SERIES OF "WORKING SESSIONS", AND SIGHTSEEING AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE. VISIT APPEARED TO GO SMOOTHLY. NEITHER MAURITANIANS NOR ROMANIANS APPARENTLY ANTICIPATED ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS FROM VISIT ALTHOUGH ROMANIAN FIRST VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN COMMERCE AND

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ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL DELEGATION CARRIED ON TWO DAYS OF TECHNICAL TALKS WITH MAURITANIAN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS PRIOR TO CEAUSESCU'S ARRIVAL. MAJOR IMPACT OF VISIT WAS PR REAFFIRMATION OF FRATERNAL TIMES THAT BIND NONALIGNED MAURITANIA AND THIRD WORLD ASPIRANT ROMANIA.

2. NICOE CEAUSESCU, IDENTIFIED BY CHAAB (GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED DAILY) IN ITS VOLUMINOUS PRE-VISIT COVERAGE OF ROMANIA AND THE CEAUSESCU'S, AS PRESIDENT'S SON, PHYSICIAN, AND SECRETARY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ROMANIAN UNION OF COMMUNIST YOUTH, FOLLOWED SEPARATE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR GIRM AND PARTY OFFICIALS AND VISITS TO MAURITANIAN YOUTH GROUPS AND FACILITIES. HE EXTENDED INVITATION TO MAURITANIAN YOUTH DELEGATION, THROUGH MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, TO VISIT ROMANIA. (INVITATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED, ONLY "FAVORABLY RECEIVED".) AT STATE DINNER, NICOE WAS SEATED NEXT TO MME. OULD DADDAH.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF VISIT ADDRESSED WIDE VARIETY OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. ONE ACCORD FOR 1977-78 CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND A SECOND FOR EXTENSION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION IN MINERAL EXPORATION AND EXPLOITATION, OCEAN FISHING, AND AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLY PROJECTS, WERE SIGNED. IN INTERNATIONAL AREA, GENERAL EMPHASIS WAS ON SOLIDARITY OF VIEWS OF BOTH GIRM AND ROMANIA ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THIRD WORLD: ANTI-COLONIALISM GENERALLY, AND ANTI-WHITE, RACIST REGIMES" IN ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA SPECIFICALLY; RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS
PLO AS THEIR "LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE"
AND CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE; SIGNIFICANCE OF OAU; IMPORTANCE OF GROUP OF 77. DISARMAMENT, PARTICULARLY NUCLEAR, WAS ADDRESSED VIGOROUSLY WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CESSATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILES, REDUCTION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES AND ELIMINATION MILITARY BLOCS AND CREATION OF NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF WORLD. EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND COLLECTION PRESS ARTICLES ON VISIT TO DEPARTMENT AND BUCAHREST.

4. IN ROMANIAN PRESIDENT'S TOAST AT STATE DINNER, HE CALLED FOR "RETREAT OF ISRAEL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS, FOR RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS WELL AS FOR GUARANTEE OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL THE STATES OF THE REGION". FIRST TWO-THIRDS OF THIS PHRASE WAS INTERRUPTED BY SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE; FINAL THIRD WAS GREETED BY SILENCE. JOINT COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS ON RESOLUTION MIDEAST CONFLICT AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, BUT CAREFULLY OMITTS ANY REFERENCE TO "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY".

5. COMMENT OFFICIALS OF BOTH ROMANIAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES
HAVE COMMENTED TO US EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT CEAUSESCU
VISIT WAS PRIMARILY TO BOLSTER BOTH PRESIDENTS. DES-
PITE REFERENCE TO COOPERATION ON FISHING IN COMMUNIQUE,
ROMANIAN FIRST SECRETARY SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT HIS
COUNTRY HAD NO INTENTION OF REPLACING 30-PLUS FISHING
BOATS IT WITHDREW FROM NOUADHIBOU AREA LAST FALL. IN
SUM, VISIT WAS APPARENTLY COMPLETE SUCCESS IN MEETING
MINIMAL OBJECTIVES.

OBSERVATION ON POLITICAL TEMPER OF NOUAKCHOTT POPULACE:
IN ARRIVAL MOTORCADE US FLAG WAS REPEATEDLY GREETED WITH
SHOUTS OF RECOGNITION AND BURSTS OF VIGOROUS APPLAUSE.
PRECEDING VIETNAMESE AND FOLLOWING QATARI CHARGES
(LATTER ACCOMPANIED BY VERY VISIBLE PLO REP),
TRAVERSED ENTIRE DISTANCE IN TOTAL SILENCE.

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